

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 /091 W

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R 051927Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2078

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU, CI

SUBJECT: GOC LEAVES DOOR AJAR ON CORVALAN/BUKOVSKI EXCHANGE

REFS: (A) VIENNA 8826 (B) 74 SANTIAGO 5561 (NOTAL)

1. JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL LEIGH TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN ANTOFAGASTA ON OCTOBER 26 THAT "CHILE, THROUGH PRESIDENT PINOCHET, HAS CLEARLY MANIFESTED ITS POSITION FOR SOME TIME ... (IN THAT) WE ARE DISPOSED TO ACCEPTED AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS, ON A ONE TO ONE BASIS, WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA." LEIGH REFERRED TO THE RECENT LETTER FROM ANDREI SAKHAROV TO AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY ENDORSING AN ALLEGED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PROPOSAL THAT THE GOC RELEASE PCCH LEADER LUIS CORVALAN IF THE SOVIETS FREE VALDIMIR BUKOVSKI (REF A). LEIGH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOC "IS DISPOSED TO CONSIDER SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ONLY WHEN THEY ARE IN THE NATINAL INTEREST AND NOT MERELY TO GIVE THE SOVIETS A PRETEXT TO FREE THOSE THEY HAVE LEFT TO ROT IN JAIL."

2. PRESIDENT PINOCHET EXPRESSED THE BASIC GOC POSITION ON THIS ISSUE IN HIS SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 SPEECH CELEBRATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP (REF B). HE OFFERED TO "AUTHORIZE, WITH THE SOLE EXCEPTION OF A FEW PARTICULAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRAVE CASES, THOSE (POLITICAL PRISONERS) WHO SO DESIRE TO

LEAVE CHILE DEFINITELY" AND CHALLENGED THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA "TO ALLOW AN EQUAL NUMBER OF DETAINEES AS THOSE WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM OUR ACTION TO LEAVE THOSE COUNTRIES, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS." THE GOC'S PROGRAM OF EXILING DETAINEES GREW FROM PINOCHET'S INITIATIVE, BUT AS LEIGH NOTED, THE COMMUNISTS DID NOT SHOW ANY INTEREST IN SUCH A DEAL.

3. COMMENT:

LEIGH'S STATEMENT, REPORTED LOCALLY AND PICKED UP BY AT LEAST ONE LATIN AMERICAN WIRE SERVICE, APPEARS TO KEEP ALIVE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CORVALAN/BUKOVSKI JOINT RELEASE. BOYATT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 05 NOV 1976  
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**To:** STATE  
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